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**RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1948.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health—

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
(Resigned August 31st, 1948).

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed Nov. 1st, 1948).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health—

G. A. WILTHEW, M.B., B.S., B.Sc.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—

J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council—

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden district.

Divisional Medical Officer—as above (M.O.H.).

Deputy Divisional Medical Officer—as above (Dep. M.O.H.).

Assistant County Medical Officer—

N. HAMLIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. (Resigned
May, 1948).

T. M. LENNOX, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Appointed
September, 1948).

Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child Welfare
Clinic—

CONSTANCE DICKSON, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., L.M.

County Oculist—

R. BURNS, M.B., B.Ch.

School Dental Officer—

J. TODD, L.D.S.

Health Visitor—

A. ALLAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor—

B. G. NICHOLS, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker—

S. PENNINGTON, B.A. (Soc. Admin.) .

Home Nurse/Midwife—

F. A. NEAVE, S.C.M.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

August, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,
Gentlemen,

My first Annual Report, like those of my worthy predecessors, is devoted largely to the vital statistics of the district. I am anxious, however, to present not merely a list of figures but a brief survey of the various health services at the disposal of the Ripponden Community. Some of these services are not administered by your Council but all have a direct bearing on the public health and are therefore of vital concern to you. My joint appointment as Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's health services and as your Medical Officer of Health makes this task easier. I hope that this departure from the usual procedure will meet with your approval.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Sharples, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts personal and official.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LYONS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,240 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1948,—5,144.

Number of dwelling-houses—1,829.

Rateable Value—£31,807.

Product of a penny rate—£127.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	70 3	39 2	31 1	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 14.2.
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	2 —	1 —	1 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 26.7.
All Deaths	72	36	36	Death Rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population 14.0.
Deaths of infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	2 —	2 —	— —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) 27.4.

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

1948.

Cause of Death.										M.	F.
1	Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers									—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever									—	—
3	Scarlet Fever									—	—
4	Whooping Cough									—	—
5	Diphtheria									—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System									1	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis									—	1
8	Syphilitic Diseases									—	—
9	Influenza									—	—
10	Measles									—	—
11	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis									—	—
12	Ac. Infantile Encephalitis									—	—
13	Cancer of the Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)									—	—
14	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum									1	1
15	Cancer of the Breast									—	1
16	Cancer of all other Sites									3	3
17	Diabetes									—	1
18	Intercranial Vascular lesions									4	8
19	Heart Disease									18	11
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System									—	3
21	Bronchitis									1	—
22	Pneumonia									1	—
23	Other Respiratory Diseases									—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum									1	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years									—	—
26	Appendicitis									—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases									1	2
28	Nephritis									2	3
29	Puerperal and Post abortion sepsis									—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes									—	—
31	Premature Birth									—	—
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury ; Infancy Diseases									1	—
33	Suicide									—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents									—	—
35	Other Violent Causes									—	—
36	All other Causes									2	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...										36	36

Principal Vital Statistics for the Year 1948.

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.
Aggregate West England
Ripponden West Riding and Wales
Urban Riding Urban Admin. (Prov.
District Districts County figures).

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	14.2	18.3	18.5	17.9
DEATH RATES :- (All per 1,000 estimated population)-All causes	14.0	11.8	11.3	10.8
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	—	0.12	0.12	* *
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.39	0.37	0.37	0.44
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.19	0.07	0.07	0.07
Respiratory Diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.39	1.34	1.29	* *
Cancer	1.75	1.83	1.74	1.86
Heart and Circulatory Diseases§	6.22	3.98	3.73	* *
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	27	38	39	34
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	—	4.17	4.38	3.3
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	—	0.09	0.10	0.24
Other causes	—	1.02	1.05	0.78
Total	—	1.11	1.15	1.02

*Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.
‡Combined death rate from Bronchitis, pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.
§Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.
* *Figures not available.

Principal Vital Statistics for the Year 1948.

Based on Registrar-General's Figures.

Comparison with neighbouring districts in County Health Division 19.

	Rippon- den U.D.	Tod- morden U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Hepton U.D.
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	14.2	15.5	15.1	18.8	15.7
DEATH RATES :-(All per 1,000 estimated population)-All causes	14.0	15.3	15.5	13.8	14.2
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal)*	nil	nil	0.2	0.1	nil
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.39	0.31	0.30	0.31	nil
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.19	0.11	nil	nil	nil
Respiratory Diseases‡ (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.39	1.88	1.69	1.30	1.03
Cancer	1.75	2.46	1.99	2.03	2.06
Heart and Circulatory Diseases§	6.22	5.23	5.96	6.08	7.22
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	27	41	66	33	16
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	nil	nil	13.16	2.76	nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

*Combined death rate from smallpox (if any), scarlet fever, enteric fever, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, also diarrhoea in infants under 2 years of age.

‡Combined death rate from Bronchitis, pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

§Combined death rate from Heart Disease and other Diseases of the Circulatory System.

Comments on Vital Statistics.

On comparing the Ripponden birth and death rates with those of the 80 or so other District Councils in the West Riding it is worthy of note that only 3 of the 80 have a lower birth rate and only 9 have a higher death rate.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary one can only suppose that this remarkable state of affairs points to the existence in Ripponden of an unduly large proportion of elderly people. Since the birth rate, both locally and nationally, appears to be declining, this trend towards an increase in the average age of the population must be expected to accelerate and will be accompanied by a dwindling of the population. Although this is a problem affecting the country as a whole, the position is particularly acute in Ripponden, where the residents of working age may have to carry a growing social and economic burden which must have repercussions on their physical and mental health and on the medico-social services they support.

Whatever measures are taken nationally to remedy the situation, Ripponden will still need to improve its own position relative to other areas. If it fails to do so, Ripponden must very quickly lose its identity as a separate and efficient local authority.

One respectfully suggests that it is vital (a) to attract young people to the district and to prevent the drift to other areas by the provision of industrial or agricultural opportunities, by continuing and, if possible, intensifying the housing "drive," and also by providing attractive recreational amenities, and (b) to eliminate at least one of the many causes of family limitation, namely, the scarcity of Council houses with more than 3 bedrooms.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital, (for aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Institution.

Before 5th July, 1948, (the "appointed day" of the National Health Service Act) the Fielden Hospital was owned by Todmorden Corporation and used as an isolation hospital. Also before this date the Todmorden Institution was controlled by the West Riding County Council and used as a Public Assistance Institution ; it is now being converted for use as an Institution for mental defectives.

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Professional Nursing in the Home.

Before 5th July, 1948, this was carried out by the Ripponden District Nursing Association. After 5th July, the West Riding County Council took over full responsibility for both home nursing and midwifery, and from that date until the end of the year Nurse Neave was employed by the West Riding County Council as a full-time Home Nurse and Midwife.

C. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from their hospitals in Halifax.

D. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by Dr. C. Dickson and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held on the afternoon of the first Monday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

E. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at a central laboratory in Wakefield.

F. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Halifax Isolation Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to Medical practitioners requiring it.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's scheme of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	32
Total number of attendances 101

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Number of children seen by doctor during the year	... 473
Total number of attendances 1274

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of births to Ripponden mothers 76
Number of first visits to children under 1 year 64
Total number of visits to children under 1 year 290
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years	... 195

Day Nursery Accommodation.

The nearest Day Nursery to which Ripponden children may be admitted is at Sowerby Bridge, priority being granted on health grounds.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

B. Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	24
Number of hospital confinements	52

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. There has so far been remarkably little demand in Ripponden for this very useful service.

C. Home Nursing Service—See B, under Section II.

D. Ambulance Service—See C, under Section II.

E. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope for this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

F. Home Helps.

Owing to the severe shortage of labour in this district it was not possible to recruit any Home Helps during 1948.

G. Care and after Care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

H. School Health Service.

Number of schools in the district	4
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1948	395
Number of children examined at school during 1948 ...	185

this figure being made up as follows :—

Routine examinations	152	}	185
Additional children specially examined at request of parents	4		
Re-examinations	29		
Number of above children referred for treatment	19		

I. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31.12.1948.

Age at 31/12/48										Total
i.e. born										under
in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	15		
No. immun.	2	67	45	53	83	289	234	773		

Estimated mid-year population : Children under 5—396. Children 5 to 14—745. Total 1141.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of immunisation, 1948.

Began and completed injections 1948 :—

0—1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	45	5	2	1	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Total 64.														

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1948 :—

0—1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	—	—	5	4	—	—	—
Total 16.														

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in year 1948.

Disease.	Total Cases N'fied.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	9
Diphtheria	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Pneumonia	1
Erysypelas	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	5
Whooping Cough	45
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases notified during 1948 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	Respiratory.		New Cases. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	1	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	0	2	0

There were three deaths from tuberculosis during 1948.

Apart from whooping cough there was no undue prevalence of infectious disease in 1948. The Medical Research Council are at present conducting an investigation into the effectiveness of whooping cough vaccines for the prevention of the disease and their findings are being anxiously awaited.

It will be noted with gratification that there were no cases of diphtheria during the year. One regards this as a tribute both to immunisation and to the general state of health of the children of Ripponden.

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1829

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses) 1249

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 580

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring. During the year extensions of the supply have been made to the new housing estates.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year

(a) Chemical—4. Result Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—2. Result Satisfactory.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewage.

No extensions have been made during 1948.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Rishworth Sewer extension.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses connected to sewers 513

Plans for the Rishworth Sewer Extension have been approved and the work is expected to commence shortly.

Nuisance Inspections.

There were nine nuisances found in 1948 all of which required abatement. Informal notices were served and were complied with in every case.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies with open middens 79

No. of Pail or Tub Closets 57

No. of privies with covered middens 125

No. of Water Closets 1328

Waste Water Closets 30

No. of closets, other than Privies reconstructed

during 1948 as w.c's 3

No. of **additional** closets provided for old property
in 1948 as :—

(a) w.c's 11

(b) other —

No. of closets constructed in 1984 for new houses

(a) w.c's 58

(b) other —

Total number of closets in District 1619

Percentage of closets on water carriage system 82 %

Grants are made by the Council for conversions of privies, waste water closets and pails to w.c. system.

Milk Supply.

No. of cowkeepers in the district	113
No. registered	113
Total number of cowsheds	171
Total number of milk farms inspected during the year ...	62
Total number of cowsheds inspected during the year ...	88
Number of wholesale traders registered	48
Number of retail milk sellers registered	43
(+ 13retailer/wholesalers and 9 not producing milk).	

As regards structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk generally, the upward tendency in this direction continues, and the progressive type of farmer is now considering very seriously “T.T” standards. The farming community on the whole appears to be working for better standards of milk production.

No. of licences in force in area for :—

(a) Production of “Tuberculin Tested” milk	8
(b) Production of “Accredited” milk	14
(c) In respect of Pateurising plants	—

